

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Annual Report Edward Byrne Memorial Law Enforcement Assistance Program



2003
(July 2002 – June 2003)

Submitted by:
The Office of the Deputy Mayor
for Public Safety and Justice
Justice Grants Administration
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GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR
FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE

Gale Farquhar
State Program Manager
State and Local Assistance Division
Bureau of Justice Assistance
810 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531

Re: District of Columbia's Fiscal Year 2003 State Annual Report

Dear Mr. Farquhar:

Attached please find the District of Columbia's 2003 State Annual Report.

The report summarizes and evaluates the accomplishments achieved in the District of Columbia as a result of the Byrne Formula Grant Program.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Ms Phyllis McKinney, at (202) 727-1700.

Sincerely,

John Hallums,
Deputy Director
Justice Grants Administration

cc: Phyllis McKinney

Enclosures:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One way the Federal Government partners with the District of Columbia (District) to support the decrease in violent crime offenses, is through the Byrne Formula Grant Program administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The grant program, as authorized by the 1988 Anti-Drug Abuse Act, funds the implementation of innovative projects. In the District, the Byrne Formula Block Grant Program is administered by the Justice Grants Administration (JGA), in the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice (ODMPSJ.)

Based on the priority areas identified for 2003, the District supports the various program areas designed to reduce violent crime and improve the criminal justice system. This document provides an overview of the programs and an examination of how they apply to the broad goals of the Formula Grant Program, followed by a description of the activities and accomplishments of the various sub-grantees. The Annual Report also discusses specific information on goals, activities and progress made over the past year.

The District is often cited for its high murder and violent crime rates in newspapers and in published national statistics, such as the FBI's Uniformed Crime Report. Even as the number of murders committed in the District decreased in 2003 compared to the previous year, the District of Columbia continues to experience one of the nation's highest violent crime rates. The 2002 U.S. Census reported that the District's violent offense rate for crimes such as murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault are often twice that of the next highest state.

Law enforcement officers, judges, treatment, prevention and education professionals, researchers, government officials and interested citizens across the District are working to maximize the effects of limited budgets as demands for service increase. However, financial resources to fund more personnel, equipment and supplies are not the only needs identified by criminal justice agencies. Increasingly, improved coordination among Federal and District justice agencies is cited as a way to maximize resources. Innovative minds in all areas of criminal justice are exploring uses of automation, computers and emerging technologies to reduce the time necessary to complete routine tasks, free up personnel for more important tasks and gain greater accountability in data reporting. Finally, leaders in criminal justice are increasingly focusing on evaluation of existing programs and methods to ensure that available funding is spent most effectively.

INTRODUCTION

State Administrative Agency

The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice (ODMPSJ) provides direction, guidance, and support to the District's public safety and justice agencies:

Mayoral Agencies:

Department of Corrections (DOC)
Emergency Management Agency (EMA)
Fire and Emergency Medical Services (Fire EMS)
Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)

Non-Mayoral Agencies:

Representatives of Local Community Based Organizations
Advisory Commission on Sentencing
Citizen Complaint Review Board,
Corrections Information Council,
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council,
District of Columbia National Guard, and
Police and Fire Retirement System

The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice also serves as the Executive Branch's liaison to the Federal justice agencies that provide services in the District, and administers Federal justice grants to sub-grantees. It serves to promote public safety, build sustainable neighborhoods, and ensure the swift and fair administration of justice. This is accomplished by providing direction, support, and guidance in agency operations, and interagency collaboration. This office also provides program development and leadership in the areas of emergency preparedness, victim's services, and ex-offender reentry. The Justice Grants Administration in this office serves as the State Administrative Agency for most Department of Justice grants, which are sub-granted to agencies and community based organizations. The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice works with the Federal and local criminal justice agencies that have come together as the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) to develop a strategic program and investment plan for the District's criminal and juvenile justice system.

SAA Staff

The Justice Grants Administration serves as the State Administering Agency for the Byrne Formula Grant Program. The JGA has a full time Program Manager dedicated to this strategy. Assistance from a Budget Analyst is provided to handle the financial aspect of the grant. The Justice Grants Administration has additional Program Managers assigned to other Federal grants. There is a Director and Deputy Director of the Justice Grants Administration that provides overall support and direction to the agency. This agency is housed in the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, who has ultimate oversight of all public safety activities.

The District's Criminal Justice Strategic Priorities for this report focused upon the following areas: Information Technology Upgrades, Crime Prevention, Community Courts, and Re-Entry of Offender Programs. The Byrne State Annual Report will address the following program activities: Neighborhood Service Delivery Pilot-\$600,000, Superior Court of the District of Columbia-\$138,000, MPD Capital Communities Partnership Project-\$272,659.54, MPD Prostitution Prevention-\$124,193, MPD Summer Academy Youth Camp-\$50,000, East of the River-Community-Police-Clergy Benning Terrace Intervention and Prevention Task Force-\$40,000, DC Rape Crisis Center-\$45,200, Visitors' Services' Center-\$25,000, Public Defender Service-\$22,400, DC Community Prevention Partnership Project "Face-Off-\$177,426, DC Integrated Justice System (JUSTIS)-\$500,000, DC Courts Community Court Project-\$141,190, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Evaluation Project-\$250,000, MPD Capital Community Partnership II-\$324,608, MPD Forensic Imaging and Information Systems-\$253,342, and MPD-Operation Ceasefire II-\$416,000.

EVALUATION PLAN AND ACTIVITIES

Evaluations of projects funded through the Edward Byrne Formula Grant Program have three purposes: examination of implementation, effectiveness, and outcomes. Evaluations also provide information for the State Annual Report and the State-wide Strategy. Program evaluation is a key component of the District's strategic plan. It is also a vital complement to performance measurement. Performance measurements provide information on whether the program is achieving its targets. Program evaluation tells not only what is happening in the program but why. It typically addresses a broader range of questions, is more sensitive to contextual factors, provides a richer, more complete picture of program performance (including impact), and offers greater insight about ways to improve.

The District's grant funded programs have internal inspection and review processes designed to foster improved operations and compliance with applicable rules and regulations.

The Justice Grants Administration along with the Office of Finance and Resource Management conducts extensive programmatic and financial monitoring of the sub-grants awarded. In addition, the District's Office of the Chief Financial Officer performs single audit reports (in compliance with the requirements of OMB circular 133A) and recommends improvements. These reviews are important and provide useful sources of information for improving operations and organizational effectiveness.

On-site monitoring visits are conducted on each sub-grant awarded during the grant period. Through regular reporting and monitoring, all projects are subject to a process evaluation that weighs each sub-grantee's success in implementing their financial and programmatic considerations and meeting their basic objectives. Some degree of impact evaluation is also conducted for a number of the projects. Although a lack of resources precludes a thorough study as to the extent to which every project has achieved their goals, a comparison of narratives and statistics is commonly used to approximate the positive effects that the activities have had on the targeted problem over the life of the grant. When a project may be expanded or serve as a model for other agencies and/or may impact the entire community, an increased impact is called for. The Justice Grants Administration encourages prospective grantees to include an evaluation component in their grant proposal.

Staff monitoring and sub-grantee self-evaluation have long indicated a high level of satisfaction with the projects, and a District-wide analysis of processes, impacts and degree of implementation is expected to be undertaken in the future.

Future State Annual Reports by the JGA will include Bureau of Justice Assistance performance measures, which were implemented after this report period.

Quarterly Progress Reports

Each project receiving Edward Byrne Formula Grant funds is responsible for reporting activities of its program each quarter. The progress reports provide valuable information on the activities of the program. Much of the information collected for the quarterly progress reports is used to prepare the State Annual Report and to provide other information to interested parties regarding programs receiving Edward Byrne Formula Grant Funds. Each Edward Byrne Formula Grant purpose area has a specific quarterly progress report unique to the respective program's activities. The quarterly report is used to monitor and measure the effectiveness of the activities of the programs.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS, PERFORMANCE MEASURES, EVALUATION METHODS AND EVALUATION RESULTS

Project Title:	NS Neighborhood Service Delivery Pilot
Federal Funds	\$600,000
Federal Fiscal Year	00-DE-03
Authorized Purpose Area:	4

Overview

This project responded to the broad goals of the formula program to provide community and neighborhood programs to assist citizens in preventing and controlling crime.

District agencies needed a coordinated and integrated service delivery mechanism to align specific efforts to meet the various needs of citizens. Developing geographical points of contact allowed agencies to solve immediate neighborhood problems and reduce the number of problems through proactive planning and scheduled service delivery.

Neighborhood Services (NS) integrated agencies to support the Metropolitan Police Department's mission into the NS model, including the Department of Employment Services Department of Mental Health, Department of Human Services, and Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration. Leadership team members participated in annual training, including new agencies. In addition, NS Core Teams focused on the "Transformation Schools" that existed within particularly difficult persistent problem areas. Work in the troubled schools furthered improvement in neighborhood quality of life, with special emphasis on areas where children were most at risk.

Goals, Objectives and Activities

NS focused on integrating mid-level managers (program managers). Previously the NS focused on front-line workers and senior-level executives. After successful integration of front-line workers and senior-level executives, the NS focus was on program managers who controlled daily resource allocation.

A Program Managers' Inclusion Forum was conducted, whereby program managers received detailed information about NS philosophy and operations. Program managers were committed to working with NS when allocating resources. Program managers and NS conducted quarterly meetings to discuss issues regarding resource allocation.

The NS, along with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), conducted Operation Fight Back (OFB). OFB is a US Department of Justice (USDOJ) program designed to address violence in neighborhoods. It was a concentrated, multi-agency strategy designed to tackle stubborn crime and disorder problems in neighborhoods throughout the District of Columbia. The strategy involved a number of different approaches, including conducting safety checkpoints, serving arrest warrants, towing abandoned vehicles cleaning up trash, carrying out building and business inspections, and reaching out to community residents. Working with the NS core teams, MPD used the existing Persistent Problem Areas (PPA) Work Plan to select areas for Operation Fightback and to determine what services would be needed in each fightback area.

During the last quarter of Fiscal Year 2003, the NS continued to build successful teams with cross-functional abilities. A Summer Core Team Youth Program was implemented in Ward 1. This was developed in response to the abnormally large number of incidents to include theft from autos, violent crimes, and graffiti & infrastructure degradation involving teenage youth. The purpose of this program was to reach out to a limited number of Ward 1 youth (ages 14-17) to expose them to the world of real life and real work and to familiarize them with the day to day struggles and challenges constantly facing city employees. Eighteen high school aged students (ages 14-17) were recruited from high schools located in the Ward to participate in a 5-week summer youth mentoring program. The program was operated by representatives from the Ward 1 NS Core Team (CT). Students meeting the following criteria were selected to participate:

- Students who had behavioral problems in school but were not yet involved in the court system
- Students suspended and were failing in their studies or exhibited anti-social behavior
- Students with unstable home lives either because they did not live with their parents, lived in group homes, with relatives or had run away from home with frequency
- Students involved in gang activities

The program was considered beneficial to the District. Citizens saw an increase in service delivery as a result of the coordination of services performed by NS. The overall Clean City evaluation dramatically increased, where the city's streets, alleys and thoroughfares were rated either clean or moderately clean. Very few were deemed dirty or hazardous as had been in past ratings.

Performance Measures

NS evaluated the number of persistent problem areas being worked on throughout the city and the status of the persistent problem areas. The evaluation revealed that 44 persistent problem areas were being addressed. Of the 44 persistent problem areas, 17 were in the mobilizing phase. In the mobilizing phase outreach, education and community engagement efforts were conducted to get the community's commitment to partner with the District to keep the area clean and safe. Sixteen problem areas were in the reclaiming phase where intense service delivery efforts were focused on an area to make it clean and safe, and 11 were in the sustaining phase, where the community and government partnered to sustain the cleanliness of the area.

During the last half of 2003, it was determined that inclusion of the MPD-supporting agencies is necessary to reduce the number of persistent problem areas.

Project Title:	Superior Court of the District of Columbia Automation of Juvenile Case Management System
Federal Funds	\$138,000
Federal Fiscal Year	00-DE-01
Authorized Purpose Area:	15.b

Overview

This project responded to the broad goals of the formula program to provide criminal justice information systems to assist law enforcement prosecution, courts and corrections organizations. The District's Justice System was severely compromised in its ability to effectively intervene in the lives of thousands of individuals due to lack of information management, modern technology and infrastructure. Judges and probation officers engaged in the time-consuming activity of requesting information from multiple databases in order to assemble a complete criminal or court history.

Routine management reports were impossible to produce without lengthy, labor-intensive hand counts of cases and customers. Grant funds were utilized to support the abuse and neglect system with application software licenses in the Integrated Justice Information System (IJIS). The Integrated Justice Information System (IJIS) Program created a fully integrated justice information system for the District of Columbia which links agencies comprising the District's justice, law enforcement, and social services systems to provide enhanced services to individuals and families in need.

Goals, Objectives and Activities

The goal of this project was to enable the Superior Court to identify, track and provide coordinated dispositions in cases involving the same individual or family.

The Superior Court launched the Acquisition/Modification Phase of the IJIS Project. Program activities undertaken in support of IJIS included the information of the first draft of the Request for Proposal (RFP) with the assistance of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and preparation for recruiting a project manager.

The court was unable to undertake activities for IJIS initially, as they were awaiting congressional approval of a detailed design plan/RFP. The Court was required by Public Law 106-522 to obtain such approval prior to expenditure of grant or appropriated funds. In accordance with P.L. 106-522, the Court submitted a detailed design plan/RFP to the Committees on Appropriations of the United States Senate and House of Representatives.

The mandate for congressional approval of the IJIS design plan resulted in a delay of procuring the juvenile justice module and subsequently the licenses in support of the module. However, the Court remained on target with its plan to fully implement the abuse and neglect system prior to the end of the grant period.

The Juvenile and Neglect Automation project was a critical part of the Court's IJIS in respect to the juvenile module of the system. The initial phase of IJIS was to support Family Court activities and produce the mandatory congressional reports, as well as serve as a demonstrative model for the remaining components of IJIS.

Performance Measures

Numerous training workshops were being conducted for court staff to familiarize them with IJIS. During the training workshops selected Family Court staff was designated as "facilitators" to serve as central coordinators and troubleshooters for their respective branches/units. These individuals, along with other court support staff routinely assessed staff progress regarding IJIS, i.e., timelines of cases/data entered, accuracy of data entry, reduction in data entry errors, etc. In this way, lessons learned from the Family Court experience can be readily transferred to the other components of IJIS.

Project Title:	Capital Community Partnership Project
Federal Funds	\$272,659.54
Federal Fiscal Year	00-DE-03-0002
Authorized Purpose Area:	4

Overview

This project responded to the broad goals of the formula program to provide community and neighborhood programs to assist citizens in preventing and controlling crime.

Capital Communities are neighborhoods in transition that are targeted for investment of capital resources. The goal is to build safe, healthy and revitalized neighborhoods and transform them into first rate “Capital Communities.” There are six Capital Communities; one located in six separate police districts.

Goals, Objectives and Activities

The goals of the Capital Community Partnership Project were to: 1) institutionalize collaborative problem-solving, which includes community police and city agency partners of the District containing a Capital Community; 2) increase the capacity of Capital Community partners and others in the District to solve crime and disorder problems and sustain success, and 3) to develop six collaborative systemic prevention projects.

The project objectives were to: 1) assess the problem-solving strength of each Capital Community area; 2) survey and analyze community perceptions of police, community policing and problem-solving activity, crime and other data in each Capital Community area; 3) profile and assess the resource strength of each Capital Community area; 4) provide training and technical assistance on collaborative problem-solving (Partnerships for Problem Solving); 5) advance neighborhood partnerships to sustain on-going, collaborative problem-solving, and 6) document and share collaborative problem-solving success stories.

Performance Measures

- Assessment of PSA collaborative problem-solving meetings and action plans within two months of initiation of fieldwork in each Capital Community
- Survey instrument within two weeks of project implementation
- Interview of 100 police, community and other stakeholders within three months of initiation of fieldwork in each Capital Community (total 600 surveys)
- Protocol report that included crime, and calls for service data; participation in PSA/Partnerships for Problem-Solving meetings, as well as problem-solving work with other agencies within the first month of project. Reports are to be completed monthly for each area
- Profile of each Capital Community within three months’ initiation of fieldwork in each of the six areas

The project identified and partnered with two local community or faith-based organizations in each Capital Community within four months of fieldwork.

There was an increase in participation in PSA collaborative problem-solving meetings by 25 percent within eight months of project implementation in each Capital Community.

Individuals spoke to the evaluator during visits to their neighborhood. Universally, they asked that the Outreach Coordinator be kept in place. Community leaders believe that this is a program that works.

Project Title: Prostitution Prevention

Federal Funds \$124,193

Federal Fiscal Year 00-DE-02

Authorized Purpose Area: 4

Overview

This project responded to the broad goals of the formula program to improve the criminal justice and juvenile justice system's response to domestic and family violence and neighborhood programs to assist citizens in preventing and controlling crime.

The District of Columbia suffered chronic problems with street prostitution, impacting community safety and the quality of life experienced by residents and visitors. Throughout the year, areas of Downtown DC are blighted with high levels of street prostitution.

The project requested funds to create and implement a "John School" within the District of Columbia.

Goals, Objectives and Activities

The primary goal of the program was to implement intervention which promotes the prevention of street prostitution activity.

A total of seven "John School" sessions were held, with 235 participants in attendance. A total of 106 participants completed health screening provided by the Department of Health.

Another program goal was to support inter-agency collaboration and improve coordination in reducing the incidence and harmful consequence of street prostitution in the District of Columbia.

The creation of the “John School” was a collaborative effort between the Prostitution Enforcement Unit, the United States Attorney’s Office, the Department of Health, and the community with a focus on diverting and educating Johns on the dangerous consequences of prostitution.

Performance Measures

- Reduced street prostitution and associated problems inherent in prostitution (including violence, exposure to health risk, and trauma)
- Increased community satisfaction and participation in the program
- Improved uses of resources, including reduction in patrols required for containing street activity, reduced court costs and reduced outstanding warrants
- Increased education about STDs, AIDS and general health care risks
- Increased in the number of street workers who find alternative employment
- Increased understanding of the roots of prostitution
- Increased access to appropriate treatment and services

Project Title: MPD Summer Academy Youth Camp

Federal Funds \$\$50,000

Federal Fiscal Year 01-DE-14

Authorized Purpose Area: 24

Overview

This project responded to the broad goals of the formula program to provide law enforcement and prevention programs that relate to gangs or youth who are involved in or are at risk of involvement in gangs.

The Metropolitan Police Department has been involved with youth since 1958, when it established its first Police Boys Club. Since that time, the clubs have evolved into the MPD Police Boys and Girls Club with a membership of over 5,000 youth from the District of Columbia.

During the summer, each of the seven police districts were encouraged to run summer youth camps, in order to provide alternatives to mischievous behavior that summertime often brings. Funding for the seven police districts was provided by the departmental budget and the generosity of community members, i.e. merchants, neighborhood advisory councils, grants, etc.

Goals, Objectives and Activities

The Summer Academy Youth Camp's goals and objectives to provide a safe and nurturing environment that fosters education and social growth in the campers in order to prevent child abuse, neglect and delinquent behavior, were met during the award period. The youth developed a positive relationship with the police officers and were taught conflict resolution skills, team building, life skills and self-esteem building and drug and gang prevention lessons. The youth took various trips to museums for cultural exposure. The youth also had a week residential stay at Camp Ernest Brown in Scotland, Maryland. While at camp Brown, the youths were involved in hiking, camp fires, group sessions, and received environmental lessons.

Performance Measures

Systemic and behavioral changes were measured by the initial evaluation of the first week of residential camp through the last week of camp. The purpose of extensively evaluating the first week of residential camp was to measure each individual need of the campers and adhere to making positive change in academically strained students and those who were bordering the path of criminal and delinquent activities. The success of the program was measured by the parents' expressed appreciation for the summer camp and the many letters received thanking the officers for the positive changes they witnessed in their child's behavior.

Project Title: D.C. Rape Crisis Center

Federal Funds \$45,200

Federal Fiscal Year 01-DE-06

Authorized Purpose Area: 28

Overview

This project responded to the broad goals of the formula program to promote programs designed to prevent child abuse and neglect. Research shows that 29% of all forcible rapes occur when the victim is under eleven years of age. It is estimated that one in seven boys and one in four girls will be sexually abused before they reach the age of 18. The D.C. Rape Crisis Center implemented a comprehensive Child Abuse Prevention and Education Program that consists of specifically educational presentations for school-age children. The Center established relationship with D.C. Public Schools, childcare providers and other youth service agencies. Workshop presentations were given to pre-kindergarten through 3rd grade, "Appropriate, Inappropriate" presentations for children in grades 4 through 6 and "Date Rape" and "Sexual Harassment" workshops for junior and senior high school students.

Goals, Objectives and Activities

- Increase children's and adolescents' awareness of sexual abuse, harassment and date rape and how to respond appropriately
- Sponsor a poster contest related to preventing sexual abuse among elementary students in two age groups
- Maintain peer educator programs at the School without Walls
- Conduct 25 peer-led presentations to 400-500 Middle and High School students
- Provide 10 educational workshops for parents; teachers, and youth service staff that provide information regarding risk-reduction, recognizing potentially abusive situations, reporting and resource/referral information.
- Increase the number of referrals to the Center's Child and Family Counseling Program.

Performance Measures

- Conducted 250 presentations for children
- Conducted a minimum of 14 presentations for parents, teachers and other adults responsible for taking care of children
- Increased the knowledge related to sexual abuse using comparative pre-and post-test scores

Evaluation

The community educators provided monthly reports detailing their activities and their impressions of responses to their presentations. Both quantitative and qualitative data was used to determine the effectiveness of the presentations and answers to the following questions:

- Is the program meeting its target number of children and youth in the primary service delivery area?
- Are children and adolescents effectively processing and retaining information?
- Are the target number of adults, particularly parents and teachers, being reached?
- Are adults actively engaged in the presentations and do they report learning new information?

The DC Rape Crisis Center's Department of Community Education is seen as beneficial for the training of professionals working with child survivors. It also provides a wide array of valuable educational programs including "Staying Safe" classes for children and adolescents within the D.C. Public School system and other organizations.

Project Title: Visitors' Services' Center

Federal Funds \$25,000

Federal Fiscal Year 01-DE-15

Authorized Purpose Area: 11

Overview

This project responded to the broad goals of the formula program to provide additional public correctional resources and improve the corrections system, including treatment in prisons and jails, intensive supervision programs, and long-range corrections and sentencing strategies. The re-entry of offenders into the community is a well known community need. With the fundamental belief that offenders need to maintain community ties so that they are better prepared for release, the Visitors' Services' Center (VSC) efforts began on day one of incarceration.

The VSC is an organization that has worked with the men and women of the D.C. Jail since 1969. The program was designed to assist the families of inmates by passing along messages to their families or attorneys.

The VSC provided information on job and training programs, and drug and school treatment. The VSC supplied applications for Social Security Cards or birth certificates, alerted inmate employers that they would not be back at work, called neighbors to feed unattended animals, moved a vehicle, or picked up apartment keys taken at the time of arrest. The Center also checked on family members...contacted probation or parole officers and assisted in tax preparation. The VSC utilized an office located in the DC Jail on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week.

Goals, Objectives and Activities

The VSC goals were as follows:

- Ensure that inmates in the DC Jail know of VSC services available to them.
- Respond to all inmate requests for help
- Provide assistance to pretrial defendants assigned to the custody the VSC by the Superior Court
- Participate in forums and provide information toward the betterment of the overall needs of the offender population

The following activities took place during the project period:

- Over 6000 inmate request forms were distributed each month at the jail
- An edition of the VSC "Look Out" was published and distributed
- An edition of "Inside-Out" was published and distributed

- The VSC completed more than 100 tax returns, filed by the April 15th deadline for requesting inmates
- The VSC was present during arraignment court on most Tuesdays and Thursdays to assist defendants assigned to the VSC in their area of need and provided monthly progress reports to the Court

Performance Measures

Inmate requests were reviewed on a daily basis to insure an adequate delivery of service. The VSC is currently involved in a management assistance study with outside evaluators through a grant provided by the Meyer Foundation. The study involves the development of a 1 year strategic plan. The results of this study will be available in mid 2004.

Project Title: Public Defender Service

Federal Funds \$22,400

Federal Fiscal Year 01-DE-04

Authorized Purpose Area: 25

Overview

This project responded to the broad goals of the formula program to develop or improve forensic laboratory capabilities to analyze DNA for identification purposes.

The mission of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS) is to provide and promote quality legal representation to indigent adults and children, facing a loss of liberty in the District of Columbia, and thereby protect society's interest in the fair administration of justice. The PDS for the District is regarded nationally as a model public defender service, and locally as a leader in cutting-edge criminal defense practices. Consequently, it is necessary for PDS attorneys to remain current in all aspects of criminal defense lawyers – public defenders and Criminal Justice Act (CJA) attorneys¹ - to develop expertise in the latest defense practices regarding forensic science. The progressively increasing number of cases involving forensic science is driving the need.

¹ Both PDS and CJA attorneys are appointed to represent indigent defendants under the Criminal Justice Act. CJA attorneys, unlike PDS attorneys, are not public employees.

The DNA Sample Collection Act and the Innocence Protection Act have led to an increase in the number of DNA-based cases in the District of Columbia resulting in an increased demand for technical expertise of defense lawyers handling these cases. Comparisons of DNA samples to forensic evidence collected in unsolved crimes will lead to additional arrests and prosecutions where DNA will be the primary evidence against the defendant. To render constitutionally-effective advocacy, defense attorneys must have fundamental grasp of this very technical and scientific evidence, as well as access to current research, data, and experts. Without specialized training and assistance in this scientific field, defense attorneys cannot effectively evaluate test results to advise clients, determine whether independent testing is needed, or prepare for trial.

PDS coordinated a training conference on how to understand, analyze and apply forensic science in criminal defense work.

Goals, Objectives and Activities

The program goal was to increase the knowledge and use of forensic science in the criminal defense of indigent persons in the District of Columbia.

The program objective was to provide a training conference on forensic science and criminal defense work for one hundred and fifty attorneys who represent indigent defendants in the District.

The program activities included the following:

- Select specific training topics on forensic science to be covered at the conference
- Recruit five forensic science experts
- Coordinate training conference – venue, supplies brochure, and training materials.
- Implement conference
- Videotape conference to provide future training opportunities.

Performance Measures

Evaluation criteria included the use of two different tools: a pre-and post-test of each training sessions, and a participant critique.

The PDS accomplished its goal to increase the knowledge and use of forensic science in the criminal defense of indigent persons in the District of Columbia by coordinating and presenting a training conference on forensic science and criminal defense work.

The PDS analyzed the results of the training session evaluation forms and pre- and post-conference test. Overall the conference was a tremendous success and proved beneficial to the agency. Participant critique suggested there is a continued need for ongoing training in forensic science and criminal defense work.

Project Title: Project Face-Off

Federal Funds \$177,426

Federal Fiscal Year 01-DE-08

Authorized Purpose Area: 4

Overview

This project responds to the broad goals of the formula program to provide community and neighborhood programs to assist citizens in preventing and controlling crime. The DC Community Prevention Partnership Project “Face-Off” engaged youth in supervised, productive activities. Middle and High School students engaged in conflict resolution, anger management, substance abuse prevention, leadership development, and career/educational exploration activities. The students were engaged twice weekly, both at DC Public school sites and at community centers in Northwest, D.C.

Engagements took the form of focus groups, open discussions, role-plays, and law enforcement interaction with the Metropolitan Police Department.

Goals, Objectives and Activities

The project goals and objectives were directly linked to twice weekly sessions.

Performance Measures

Student participants completed pre-evaluation instruments prior to participating in each five-week cycle, to gauge their perceptions about crime, violence, and drugs. After completing the program, students were evaluated to gauge the effectiveness of the program in addressing the same perception. A sampling of student participants was gathered at three schools to participate in a focus group.

The program allowed the DCCPP to expand its involvement in an understanding of community policing and juvenile needs and strategies in the District of Columbia. The success of the program, and the word-of-mouth publicity the program received from students, teachers, law enforcement officers, and partner service providers, highlighted violence prevention efforts District-wide.

Project Title:	Benning Terrace Intervention and Prevention Task Force
Federal Funds	\$40,400
Federal Fiscal Year	01-DE-16
Authorized Purpose Area:	4

Overview

This project responded to the broad goals of the formula program to provide community and neighborhood programs to assist citizens in preventing and controlling crime. The mission of the Benning Terrace Intervention and Prevention Task Force was to bring together all sectors of the community – residents, churches, law enforcement entities, non-profit organizations, grass roots efforts, government agencies, and businesses – and assume a leadership role in the community to respond to a number of significant current and longer term needs prevalent among the community’s youth and their families. Groups from all sectors of the community had gathered in concern over events in the Benning Terrace community, specifically the stealing and racing of cars by youth which resulted to two deaths.

Goals, Objectives and Activities

Identify the concerns and needs of the Benning Terrace community; develop strategies to address identified concerns and needs; and coordinate the implementation of these strategies as well as participation of partner organizations/entities to accomplish necessary tasks.

The task force met as a large group on a regular basis, weekly and bi-weekly, at first and monthly thereafter to directly intervene in the lives of the youth who are committing crimes and by systematically addressing all aspects of community life, with the goal of bringing resources to build health and wholeness into the lives of individuals, families, and the community as a whole. The group then divided into smaller groups.

Performance Measures

Grant funding covered a short period of time for this project. Evaluation efforts are currently on an informal basis, by soliciting input from program partners and community residents to be sure the project is accountable and plans and activities meet the real needs of the community.

Project Title: DC Integrated Justice System (JUSTIS)

Federal Funds \$500,000

Match Funds: \$1,700,000

Federal Fiscal Year 01-DE-01

Authorized Purpose Area: 15.b

This project responded to the broad goals of the formula program to provide criminal justice information systems to assist law enforcement, prosecution, courts and corrections organizations (including automated fingerprint identification systems.)

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) and the Office of the Chief Technology Officer for the District of Columbia (OCTO) procured a private vendor to increase the functionality of JUSTIS through the development of a Data Transfer Application, A Data Quality Alliance, the increase of a CJCC Web presence and the continued operation and maintenance of JUSTIC as defined by the vendor's response to JUSTIS Phase 3 Statement of Work. This constitutes the continuance of a defined level of system management and administration and the continued management of JUSTIS documentation.

Goals, Objectives and Activities:

The following goals and objectives were accomplished that relate directly to the Byrne Memorial Grant support:

- Design and implementation of the Data Quality Alliance
- Design and implementation of the Core Data Transfer
- Implementation of the DC Tracking Number
- Design and implementation of the public access "I Want to Know" page
- Approval and acceptance of the above goals as completed by the Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC)

These goals were the primary thrust of the JUSTIS Phase 3 program. The accomplishments added basic services and routines not previously provided to justice agencies within the District of Columbia. They represent not only the literal work products and accomplishments, but also the more intrinsic success through the collaboration of all the primary justice agencies in the city: executive agencies at District and federal levels, judicial, and independent agencies.

The JUSTIS team meets every Wednesday for a progress review session. At each work session activities for the next week are discussed. Also discussed are the previous week's activity and program status.

Performance Measures

The users and agency representatives participated in four Joint Application Development (JAD) sessions. Part of the evaluation process was to bring the final specifications, documentation and a working model back to the JAD group for their detailed review and acceptance. Their positive evaluation and unanimous acceptance was the final evaluation prior to implementation. Following implementation, but prior to release to the entire user community, the groups were again shown the final product for comment and acceptance.

At the first presentation, each concept was presented for discussion and review as a SOW. The ITAC then reviewed and accepted resulting proposals. The ITAC was shown the model that was the result from each JAD. Lastly, after implementation, each product was brought to the ITAC for conclusion, final review and acceptance.

Project Title: DC Courts – Community Court

Federal Funds \$141,190

Federal Fiscal Year 01-DE-05

Authorized Purpose Area: 10

Overview

This project responded to the broad goals of the formula program to improve the operational effectiveness of the court process by expanding prosecutorial, defender and judicial resources, and implementing court-delay reduction programs.

The D.C. Community Court Project made significant progress in addressing the goals and objectives of enabling the Community Court to make more informed decisions about offenders involved in quality of life and traffic cases, providing more offenders with accountability, and enhancing community partnerships. The Community Court Coordinator served as the Court's liaison to partner agencies with which the Court established Memoranda of Understanding (MOU's) to provide services and other support for the Community Court Project. Among the partner agencies which established MOU's with the Court are the District of Columbia Department of Employment Services, which provides Community Court offenders with life skills training and subsidized employment through its Project Empowerment program; the District of Columbia Department of Public Works; the DC Downtown Business Improvement District (BID), which provides work opportunities for Community Court offenders to perform community services. Most Community Court defendants need drug treatment and employment services. Establishing partnerships with drug treatment and employment services agencies to assist these defendants is an essential part of the Community Court problem-solving approach.

Goals, Objectives and Activities

Some goals, objectives and activities included MOUs with partnering agencies collaborating with the Community Court Project, town hall meetings in the East of the River community of the city, where D.C. Court officials and representatives of the community court criminal justice partner agencies and organizations presented an overview of the Community Court, a description of the concept of “problem-solving courts”, and how their approach differs from the more traditional criminal justice methods of dealing with quality of life cases.

Performance Measures

The Superior Court of the District of Columbia leadership and its partners in the Community Court believe that its innovative use of problem-solving and therapeutic justice in resolving non-violent traffic and quality-of-life cases will ultimately benefit offenders, victims, and their communities. The program will continue beyond the grant period as the Court and collaborating agencies continue to meet and review programmatic issues to identify ways to more effectively serve the targeted population.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Evaluation Project

Federal Funds \$250,000

Federal Fiscal Year 01-DE-10

Authorized Purpose Area: 19

Overview

This project responded to the broad goals of the formula program to provide drug control evaluation programs which State and local units of government may utilize to evaluate programs and projects directed at State drug control activities.

The mandate of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is to foster systemic change in the justice system by convening the major stakeholders and principals from the justice community in a shared mission to address persistent problems that impact across agencies.

The D.C. criminal justice system is complex, with a mix of Federal and local agencies and more than 70 different information systems in use among the various participating agencies. Many of these systems are not linked, making it difficult to share information in a timely and useful manner

The CJCC, in its capacity as a coordinating body for the unique Federal/local criminal justice system in the District of Columbia, will be integral to monitoring key issues and addressing their inherent challenges. In order to measure success and address restraints to full implementation plans, the CJCC must play the role of monitoring the progress of the various activities and continuously identify gaps in the delivery of services.

Goals, Objectives and Activities

Goal 1 - Build Research and Analysis Capability

Objective 1 - Develop an evaluation plan

Activities

- Develop project goals and objectives
- Customize data collection tools
- Develop data requests
- Finalize list of initiatives for review
- Develop prioritization criteria for initiatives

Objective 2 - Conduct a needs assessment

Activities

- Review documentation
- Interview agency leads and key staff
- Develop project repository
- Update project repository

Objective 2 - Conduct gap analysis

Activities

- Document accomplishments
- Identify focus areas
- Identify key business and IT issues impacting project implementation
- Develop high-level estimate to complete recommendations (funding, resources, time)

Evaluation, Performance Measures

KPMG Consulting worked with member agency leaders (in various areas) to document the current state of their strategic initiatives and highlight potential impediments to completion. They began a review of relevant documentation associated with current initiatives, such as project status reports. In addition, they began interviews with key officials within the member agencies to ascertain and confirm the initiatives and gather additional or missing documentation on the project history and understanding the project's current state. CJCC began to develop a repository for project information in the agency files.

The program deliverables are as follows:

- Evaluation Plan
- Data Collection Tools
- Interview Guides
- Project Portfolio Template
- Strategic Initiative Repository Strategic Initiative Status Report
- Asset Mapping
- Copies of MOUs
- Final Report

Project Title: MPD-Capital Community Partnership II

Federal Funds \$324,608

Federal Fiscal Year 01-DE-13

Authorized Purpose Area: 4

Overview

This project responded to the broad goals of the formula program to provide community and neighborhood programs to assist citizens in preventing and controlling crime. The success in crime reduction and prevention is based upon collaborative work of police officers and community residents who live and work in the area developing and implementing plans of action to impact localized problems.

The Capital Community Partnership Project was designed to continue transitioning six areas into first-rate Capital Communities. The project is based upon the work of five outreach coordinators who conduct targeted outreach; provide training and technical assistance; assist community leaders in researching problems and accessing government and other agency resources; collect and analyze crime and other data to determine progress; facilitate systemic prevention work, and support the work of the acting Police Service Area Lieutenant.

Goals, Objectives and Activities

The program accomplished its goal to contact community residents and build their capacity to regularly problem-solve local crime and disorder problems with police officers, neighbors, and other city agencies through the forum of monthly Police Service Area (PSA) meetings. This effort supports the Metropolitan Police Department and the City Mayor's goal of working with residents to create a safer and healthier District of Columbia.

The project objectives are being implemented in three phases in 12 additional police service areas (two each in the First, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Police Districts).

As the program now has three coordinators out of the initial six, staff has expanded into 6 new PSA's – two in each of the three police districts.

Crime data was collected for two of the new-targeted areas in the Third District PSAs. The year-one survey instrument was revised both for the initial "getting to know the community" phase and for the final phase of work after some systemic prevention work was initiated.

A total of 80 surveys were completed.

Some PSA community assessments have been done in the new-targeted areas.

Performance Measures

- A five percent increase in community satisfaction with police services
- A three percent increase in calls for service for crime and disorder problems
- A sustained twenty-five percent increase in attendance at PSA community meetings
- Closure of twelve collaborative Policing for Prevention Action Plans based upon goals that are specified, measurable and realistic
- A five percent increase in community awareness of Neighborhood Partnership activities (police and community collaboration to impact crime and disorder).
- A ten percent increase in awareness of PSA team of officers
- A three percent decrease in reported crime (Part I offenses)
- A five percent increase in community satisfaction in addressing priority public disorder problems

Evaluation

A survey was administered to a sample of residents in each Capital Community area and results were compiled. In addition to the surveys, the evaluator conducted interviews with some community leaders. A preliminary evaluation report is to be completed.

Project Title: MPD-Forensic Imaging and Information System

Federal Funds \$253,342

Federal Fiscal Year 01-DE-11

Authorized Purpose Area: 7a

Overview

This project responded to the broad goals of the formula program to improve the operational effectiveness of law enforcement through the use of crime analysis techniques. The Firearms Examination Section Intake Software system was a stand-alone. In addition, all notes on firearms evidence and subsequent letter of results were documented on forms and placed in file folders. As such, all information about a case, including the type of evidence, the status of computer imaging and the results of the examination had to be obtained from a member of the Section. There was no mechanism in place to allow internal customers to review forensic firearms and firearms related data from evidence recovered in the District.

The MPD Firearms Examination Section only had enough personnel to staff one shift, which was Monday through Fridays from 0630 to 1500 hours. The ability to have a software system that allows customers to access forensic information on firearms related cases beyond the normal working hours was crucial in providing timely information.

Goals, Objectives and Activities

The Forensic Imaging and Information System Software streamlined the forensic firearms information, evidence completion results and computer imaging status. The system's on-line capacity allows internal customers to access forensic firearms data in real time.

This reduces administrative time in the quality assurance phase of case jacket reviews.

Performance Measures

- Increased number of requests for information filled within 24 hours.
- Increased accuracy of forensic firearms information, case completion results and computer imaging status
- Improved access of forensic firearms data to internal and external customers.

Project Title: MPD-Operation Ceasefire II

Federal Funds \$416,000

Federal Fiscal Year 01-DE-09

Authorized Purpose Area: 7a

Overview

This project also responded to the broad goals of the formula program to provide improve the operational effectiveness of law enforcement through the use of crime analysis techniques. The DC Metropolitan Police had a severely understaffed Firearms Examination Section. MPD was training four officers to be full time firearms examiners, but the training program takes approximately two years. The backlog approximated 500 cases, increasing by about 30 each month.

Addressing the backlog was critical to the successful investigation and prosecution of violent crimes and firearms offenses occurring in the city. The vast majority of homicides in the District of Columbia are firearms related. An ability to complete firearms examinations in a timely fashion will provide critical forensic assistance to detectives for successful case closures and subsequently provide expert testimony in the prosecution of closed cases.

A needs assessment conducted by the Office of Quality Assurance recommended that MPDC address the backlog by hiring experienced firearms examiners to begin processing the backlogged cases.

The Firearms Examination Section was responsible for monitoring and oversight of the implementation of the contract for the firearms examiners. Advertisements were issued to seek contract firearms examiners, resumes were submitted, candidates were selected, the scope of work was prepared, contracts drafted and the necessary approvals were obtained from procurement and from the Office of the Chief Financial Officer. Four of the five selected contract firearms examiners began working on the backlogged firearms related cases.

Goals, Objectives and Activities

The contract firearms examiners completed eighty-two backlogged firearms related cases in 339 hours from April through June 2003. Two hundred eight-nine hours of overtime was worked to coordinate and assign firearms worked cases in the NIBIN forensic computer imaging system, review and file worked case jackets, and to perform and provide statistical analyses on all aspects of the Operation Cease Fire II grant.

Evaluation

The Firearms Examination Section is responsible for monitoring and oversight of the implementation of the contract for the firearms examiners.